(a) whether Government has received several representations for extending Vidhan Express from Asansol to Howrah upto Baidnath Dham;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that Railways have not, so far, implemented the extension of above train upto Baidnath Dham; and

(c) by when this project of extension is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Extension of the train upto Baidyanath Dham is presently not feasible due to terminal and operational constraints.

(c) Does not arise.

Mandate of Reservation and Cancellation of tickets to IRCTC

826. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IRCTC has also been given the mandate regarding reservation and cancellation of tickets;

(b) whether IRCTC being a corporation earns revenue for providing the service for the Railways;

(c) whether IRCTC as a corporation also charge service tax from the passengers over and above the rail fare and reservation charges; and

(d) if not, whether IRCTC is exempted from service tax and if so, under which rule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been assigned the work of providing reservation on internet using the Indian Railway's computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS).

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) IRCTC realises service charges from passengers and pays service tax to the Government out of the service charges collected.

(d) Does not arise.

Ticket reservation and cancellation by IRCTC

827. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IRCTC has also been given the mandate regarding reservation and cancellation of tickets;

(b) whether such functions were part of original mandate of IRCTC;

(c) if not, when such functions were transferred to IRCTC;

(d) whether IRCTC being a corporation earns revenue for providing the service for the Railways; and

(e) if so, the details of charges levied by the IRCTC on the Railways and the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been assigned the work of providing reservation on internet using the Indian Railway's computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS).

(b) Yes, Sir;

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No charges are levied on Railways.

Service Charges realized from customer are:

- i-ticket: Rs. 40/- per ticket for Sleeper/ reserved 2nd Sitting (2S) classes and Rs. 60/- per ticket for other classes.
- e-ticket: Rs. 15/- to Rs. 25/- per ticket in sleeper (SL)/ reserved 2nd Sitting (2S) classes and Rs. 20/- to Rs. 40/- per ticket in other classes depending upon the number of passengers.

Black marketing of tickets

828. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that common man is not having an access to confirmed railway tickets whereas black tickets are easily available;

(b) whether the waitlisted tickets do not improve the status even to a single point even after lapse of more than a month period whereas such tickets used to improve position many a times in a single day, two three years back;

(c) what measures are taken to control black marketing of tickets; and

(d) whether Government would consider roll back of tatkal scheme which has made upside down the availability of tickets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir. Reserved tickets are available on first come first serve basis.

(b) Change in status of RAC/Waitlisted tickets is automatic and depends upon the cancellation of confirmed tickets.